

Serial No.: 10/552,717
Atty. Docket No.: P70890US0

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A catheter assembly comprising a container, a catheter handle and at least one catheter element with a proximal end adapted for insertion in a urinary canal and an opposite distal end, the container ~~comprising~~ having a cavity adapted to accommodate at least a proximal section of said catheter element, said ~~catheter assembly further comprising a catheter handle adapted to be interlocked with the catheter element, the handle comprising~~ and including a sleeve section adapted to surround a portion of said container, ~~characterized in that said catheter handle is adapted being configured to be separated detached~~ detached from said catheter element and from said container.

2. (Currently Amended) A The catheter assembly according to claim 1, wherein said catheter handle is adapted to be attached to said container assembly.

3. (Currently Amended) A The catheter assembly according to claim 1, wherein said catheter handle is shorter than said container or shorter than said catheter element.

Serial No.: 10/552,717
Atty. Docket No.: P70890US0

4. (Currently Amended) A The catheter assembly according to claim 1, wherein a distal section of said catheter element has at least one protruding part and wherein a proximal compartment of said cavity is adapted to accommodate a proximal section of said catheter, said proximal compartment having a distal opening zone with an exclusion ~~means~~ element adapted to exclude said distal section of said catheter element from entering said proximal compartment.

5. (Currently Amended) A The catheter assembly according to claim 4, wherein said exclusion ~~means-comprises~~ element includes a radially inwardly extending protrusion in the cavity.

6. (Currently Amended) A The catheter assembly according to claim 4, wherein at least a part of said distal opening zone is flexible.

7. (Currently Amended) A The catheter assembly according to claim 1, further comprising a lubricating medium.

8. (Currently Amended) A The catheter assembly according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said catheter element has a hydrophilic coating.

9. (Currently Amended) A The catheter assembly according to claim 1, wherein said container ~~comprises~~ includes a sealing means element for sealing said cavity.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a catheter device, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a catheter assembly ~~comprising~~ having a container assembly, said container assembly ~~comprising~~ including a catheter element[[,]] which has a proximal end adapted for insertion in a urinary canal and an opposite distal end, the container assembly further ~~comprising~~ including a container with a cavity adapted to accommodate at least a proximal section of said catheter element and a catheter handle ~~comprising~~ having a sleeve section ~~adapted to surround~~ surrounding a portion of said container[[,]];

b) detaching the catheter handle from the container assembly[[,]]and from the catheter element;

c) connecting the catheter handle to the catheter element[[,]]in a different position from that in which the sleeve section surrounded the portion of said container; and

d) removing the catheter element from the container.

11. (New) The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein said step of detaching the catheter handle includes removing the sleeve section from around the container portion and the step of connecting includes interlocking a proximal end of said handle with the distal end of said catheter element.

12. (New) The method as set forth in claim 11, further comprising the step of removing the catheter handle from the catheter element after catheterization.

13. (New) The catheter assembly according to claim 1, wherein said catheter handle is adapted to be coupled with said assembly in two different configurations, movement of said catheter handle from a first configuration to a second configuration being effected by detaching said catheter handle from both said catheter element and said container.

14. (New) The catheter assembly according to claim 13, wherein said sleeve section surrounds a portion of said container in said first configuration and is interlocked with said catheter element in a substantially linear arrangement therewith in said second configuration, said catheter handle when detached defining

Serial No.: 10/552,717
Atty. Docket No.: P70890US0

a third configuration in which said catheter handle is physically separate from both said container and said catheter element.

15. (New) The catheter assembly according to claim 4, wherein a distal end of said sleeve section is smaller in diameter than said protruding part of said catheter element and is adjacent a proximal side of said protruding part in said first configuration and adjacent a distal side of said protruding part in said second configuration.

16. (New) A catheter assembly comprising:

a container having a cavity;

at least one catheter element with a proximal end adapted for insertion into a urinary canal and an opposite distal end, said container cavity being configured to accommodate at least a proximal section of said catheter element; and

a catheter handle having a sleeve section and being adapted, in a first configuration, to be attached to said container assembly with said sleeve section surrounding a portion of said container and, in a second configuration, to be interlocked with said catheter element in a substantially linear arrangement therewith, said catheter handle being configured to be physically

Serial No.: 10/552,717
Atty. Docket No.: P70890US0

detached from said catheter element and from said container when being moved from said first configuration to said second configuration.

17. (New) The catheter assembly according to claim 16, wherein a distal section of said catheter element has at least one protruding part and wherein a proximal compartment of said cavity is adapted to accommodate a proximal section of said catheter, said proximal compartment having a distal opening zone with an exclusion element adapted to exclude said distal section of said catheter element from entering said proximal compartment.

18. (New) The catheter assembly according to claim 17, wherein a distal end of said sleeve section is smaller in diameter than said protruding part of said catheter element and is adjacent a proximal side of said protruding part in said first configuration and adjacent a distal side of said protruding part in said second configuration.

19. (New) The catheter assembly according to claim 17, wherein said exclusion element includes a radially inwardly extending protrusion in the cavity.

Serial No.: 10/552,717
Atty. Docket No.: P70890US0

20. (New) The catheter assembly according to claim 17, wherein at least a part of said distal opening zone is flexible.